

# Keeping Up with the County

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### Commissioner Agencies

Animal Care & Control  
 Child Support Enforcement  
 Economic Development & Planning  
 Fleet Management  
 Human Resources  
 Homeland Security & Justice Programs  
 Job & Family Services  
 Office of Management & Budget  
 Office on Aging  
 Public Affairs  
 Public Facilities Management  
 Purchasing Department  
 Sanitary Engineering

## Grant a Child's Holiday Wish

### *Donate your time or a gift*

With the holiday season quickly approaching, it is hard to believe that more than 5,000 children in Franklin County may not receive any gifts this season. These children are under the care of Franklin County Children Services and have suffered through so many troubles in their young lives. There is no guarantee, without our help, these children will experience the true spirit of giving and receiving.

The holiday season is traditionally a time for giving and this year is no different. You can help a child in Franklin County enjoy the holidays by making a donation to the Franklin County Children Services Holiday Wish program.

By making a donation, you can help one or more children have a memorable holiday. Children Services is accepting monetary donations through their website [www.FranklinCountyOhio.gov/Children\\_Services](http://www.FranklinCountyOhio.gov/Children_Services). You can also donate toys of any kind, for any age, to Holiday Wish. A few suggestions include board games, dolls, action figures, basketballs and educational toys.

Our community has been granting holiday wishes for Franklin County's children through the Holiday Wish program for over 30 years.

If you would like to contribute a precious gift of time, please consider becoming a volunteer or mentor to a child in Franklin County. These volunteer enrich the lives of children, giving them support, friendship and guidance.

As a member of these volunteer programs, you can share time and activities with a child or mentor students by giving them the support and assistance as they prepare for college. Friendship and support is a valuable gift.

If you are interested in making a donation to the Holiday Wish program or contributing your time to a child, please call Franklin County Children Services at 275-2525.

Please join us in spreading holiday cheer and making everyone's holiday season and 2009 a joyous one.

Happy Holidays!

**The Franklin County Board of Commissioners**



Marilyn Brown  
President



Mary Jo Kilroy  
Commissioner



Paula Brooks  
Commissioner

**Check the Portal for  
Health Screenings &  
Wellness Programming**

## Franklin County Wins National Wellness Award

In November, Franklin County was honored as a recipient of the UnitedHealth Wellness® “Well Deserved” award - an employer wellness recognition program of UnitedHealthcare. Franklin County was tops among ten national recipients demonstrating the highest level of commitment to workplace wellness while leveraging the most UnitedHealth Wellness programs, tools and resources.

Beginning with the joint benefits committee, Commissioners recognized that wellness is both a quality of life issue and a cost containment initiative and have progressively moved more resources to wellness.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners started the Health and Wellness program two years ago, hiring Robert G. Rodriguez, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Sc., M.B.A., FACHE, as Coordinator of Health Management Programs, with the goal of advancing the health and wellbeing of employees and improving the quality of their lives both at work and at home.

This program’s #1 goal is to help our employees gain the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to achieve and maintain a lifestyle that promotes personal health and wellness.

A focus of the wellness program is prevention and early detection. Employees, and their dependents are offered free flu shots, while at-risk employees also receive mandatory tetanus and hepatitis-B immunizations. Screenings for prostate-specific antigen, osteoporosis, and high cholesterol are conducted in addition to mammograms, eye exams and audiology tests. Weekly glucose testing and health coaching is available along with blood pressure machines in the lobby and cafeteria, which are available to both employees and the general public.

A strong emphasis has been put on preventive measures and early detection to help employees stave off illness and disease. These measures prove to be fiscally prudent and proactively seek out problem areas before they can develop into life-threatening issues.

Also included in the County’s multi-faceted approach to overall wellness is a series of activities over lunch. These include physical activities, such as yoga, stair-walking, strength and stretching programs, and a very popular line-dancing class. Diet and nutrition coaching is available through Weight Watchers and Rite Bite.



**Meet Dockers  
December's Feature Dog**



## Looking for a four-legged friend?

### A Message from the Dog Shelter

Are you thinking about buying a puppy for a holiday gift? Before heading to a pet store or backyard breeder, take some time to look at all the incredible dogs and puppies at the Franklin County Dog Shelter. Their lives depend on you!

There are over 300 homeless dogs, like Dockers, pictured with descriptions



available for perusal any time of the day at [www.FranklinCountyDogs.com](http://www.FranklinCountyDogs.com).

### Want to meet hundreds at once?

Come on out to the Dog Shelter, located at 1731 Alum Creek Drive, for ***Mingle with the Mutts*** the first & third Sunday of each month from Noon until 2 p.m.

Shelter and Rescue Staff and many dedicated volunteers are on hand to help you pick the dog with the right breed, age and temperament for you and your family.

**Click here** to get an application to adopt a dog so you can bring it with you on your next visit to the Franklin County Dog Shelter.

## 'Light Up a Life' this Holiday Season

On Monday, November 24th, Commissioners were joined by the Mount Carmel and HomeReach Hospices to 'Light Up a Life' during the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony held in the Courthouse lobby.

As the tree is lit each November, we remember friends and loved ones whom we have lost to a terminal illness. As we remember, we also support two organizations that help ease the physical and the emotional pain that often accompanies these times in each of our lives.

Mount Carmel Hospice and HomeReach Hospice are two non-profit hospice centers that serve Franklin County residents of every age, illness and income level, regardless of their ability to pay.

During a difficult time, these hospice centers bring peace and understanding to those in their care, and comfort to their families and friends.

The service provided by Mount Carmel and HomeReach Hospice to our community deserves the highest praise and thanks. In addition, we can support these organizations by buying a \$10 ornament in honor or memory of someone special.

The ornaments, which will bear your friend or loved one's name, will be hung on the tree throughout this holiday season with all of the proceeds benefiting either the Mount Carmel Hospice or the HomeReach Hospice. It is your choice which hospice the proceeds will go to.



From left to right are Lori Yosick, Director of Mount Carmel Hospice, Rebecca Craig, Executive Director of HomeReach Hospice and Commissioner Marilyn Brown as they flip the switch to light the 2008 Hospice Holiday Tree.

[Click here for  
information about  
donating to a Hospice](#)

## Sign Up for Direct Deposit

The benefits of Direct Deposit are many and varied, but for starters, they include the following:

**Direct Deposit is simple.** Once you have signed up for Direct Deposit, you don't have to go to the bank to deposit checks. Your money is automatically deposited into your account on time, every time - and you don't have to be at work - or even in town! People who pay bills online do so in 15 minutes a month, whereas those who write out checks take two hours. You could save a full day each year by paying bills electronically.

**Direct Deposit is safe.** Direct Deposit payments never get lost. Direct Deposit is confidential. Money is transferred electronically and passes through fewer hands than a check. Problems with Direct Deposit, which are rare, are quickly resolved.

**Direct Deposit is smart.** Direct Deposit gives you access to your money earlier than check deposits. There is no waiting for checks to clear. Direct Deposit puts you in charge of your money. Financial planners recommend Direct Deposit as one step towards gaining control of your finances. With Direct Deposit, you decide how to divide your pay among your accounts and it will be done automatically. The County will issue a payment summary every deposit that will look much like your paycheck stub looks today. It will show your deductions for taxes, insurance, and other obligations, and will reflect the balance that was deposited into your account/s. Direct Deposit is a smart way to help the environment. Each year, checks use more than 674 million gallons of fuel and add 3.6 million tons of CO2 to the environment as they travel through the payment cycle.

Ask your payroll officer for a Direct Deposit enrollment form today.

**Save the headaches.**

**Save time.**

**Save the Earth.**

**Sign up for  
Direct Deposit.**

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## Employee Provides Extraordinary Service

This month, we would like to recognize Joe Rock as December's featured employee. Joe, a Field Supervisor for the Franklin County Department of Animal Care & Control, has been chosen to be highlighted this month for his exceptional effort to help a Franklin County family in crisis.

On October 24th, Joe assisted the Lutz family after receiving a desperate call to the Animal Control Center when their dog, Dudley, began having seizures. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lutz were unable to transport Dudley to the veterinarian because of vision impairment.

Even though his shift was ending, Joe picked up Mrs. Lutz and Dudley, took them to the veterinarian and returned them safely home after the dog had been examined.

"I can't possibly express to you the pure gratitude that we feel for what Mr. Rock did for us," Anne Lutz said. "Mr. Rock had gotten off work at seven, so he did all of this on his own time, during a big Ohio State football game. Thank you for helping us to show our appreciation for this true hero."

"Joe is supportive of our agency's mission," said Lisa Wahoff, Director of Franklin County Animal Care & Control. **"We can always count on him to do the right thing."**

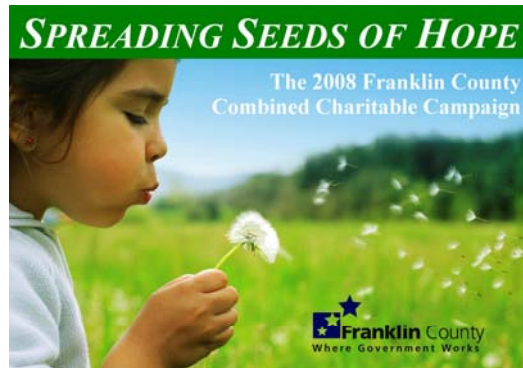
Thanks Joe for setting an example we can all follow.

Has someone in your agency exhibited excellence in their work? We want to know about it. Email [Commissioners@FranklinCountyOhio.gov](mailto:Commissioners@FranklinCountyOhio.gov) to let us know.



Joe Rock, Field Supervisor for the Department of Animal Care & Control, assisted a family and dog in crisis after getting off work on a Saturday night.

## Congratulations on reaching our goal!



We did it! We have reached this year's goal of \$300,000 raised for the 2008 Franklin County Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC). Congratulations!

This year's theme was 'Spreading Seeds of Hope.' And we certainly did so. Thank you for graciously donating your hard earned money to spread hope into our community, our country and our world.

Even though we have reached our goal, there are a few more weeks left to turn in your pledge card and support this year's CCC.

In these hard economic times, we hope you can find it in your hearts and in your pocketbooks to contribute to a favorite charity, either through a payroll deduction or through a one-time contribution. A few dollars from each paycheck can make a world of difference. Remember, no gift is too small. There are so many needy families and worthwhile causes that count on your generous support!

More than 500 organizations benefit from the CCC. These organizations touch peoples' lives by combating economic hardship, supporting families in crisis, fighting diseases and protecting our environment.

**Click here to view the CCC Resource Guide on the Portal.**

By 'Spreading Seeds of Hope' in the form of your contributions, together we can nurture and grow a bountiful harvest of hope and promise for the lives of so many in our community.

Thank you again for your generosity and continued support of this most worthy cause.